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PCB
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THE FINANCIAL TIMES
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10 Feb 73

TO: J.D. Carr

John,
Michael Simmons rang late Friday afternoon. His reference to Monsanto results from our conversation when I filled him in on the background.

John W W

OECD move on control of chemicals

By Michael Simmons

MEMBER COUNTRIES of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development jointly announced in Paris yesterday that they had reached agreement to control the manufacture and use of industrial chemicals known as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) which could lead to contamination of the environment.

The OECD recommends that the use of PCBs be restricted henceforth to those applications where their non-inflammability is an essential factor, and emphasises "the ultimate need to eliminate entirely the dispersal of PCBs."

It urges that consideration be given to discontinuing its use in food processing, animal feeds and pharmaceuticals, as well as certain adhesives, lubricating oils and pesticides.

Human poisoning

The poisonous nature of the chemical became apparent about six years ago when traces were discovered in dead fishes and birds. Chickens were found to have been contaminated through absorption from plastic wrappings, and milk because of certain herbicides taken by cattle. A human poisoning incident occurred in Japan in 1968 after a leakage at a pasteurisation plant.

Monsanto, which manufactures PCB in Britain, said yesterday it and other leading manufacturers in Europe and the U.S. had already taken steps to limit the production and distribution of the chemical. It had also worked out an elaborate waste recovery and disposal programme.

Baycor, the West German chemical manufacturer, is believed to have taken similar steps along with certain producers in France, Spain and Japan.